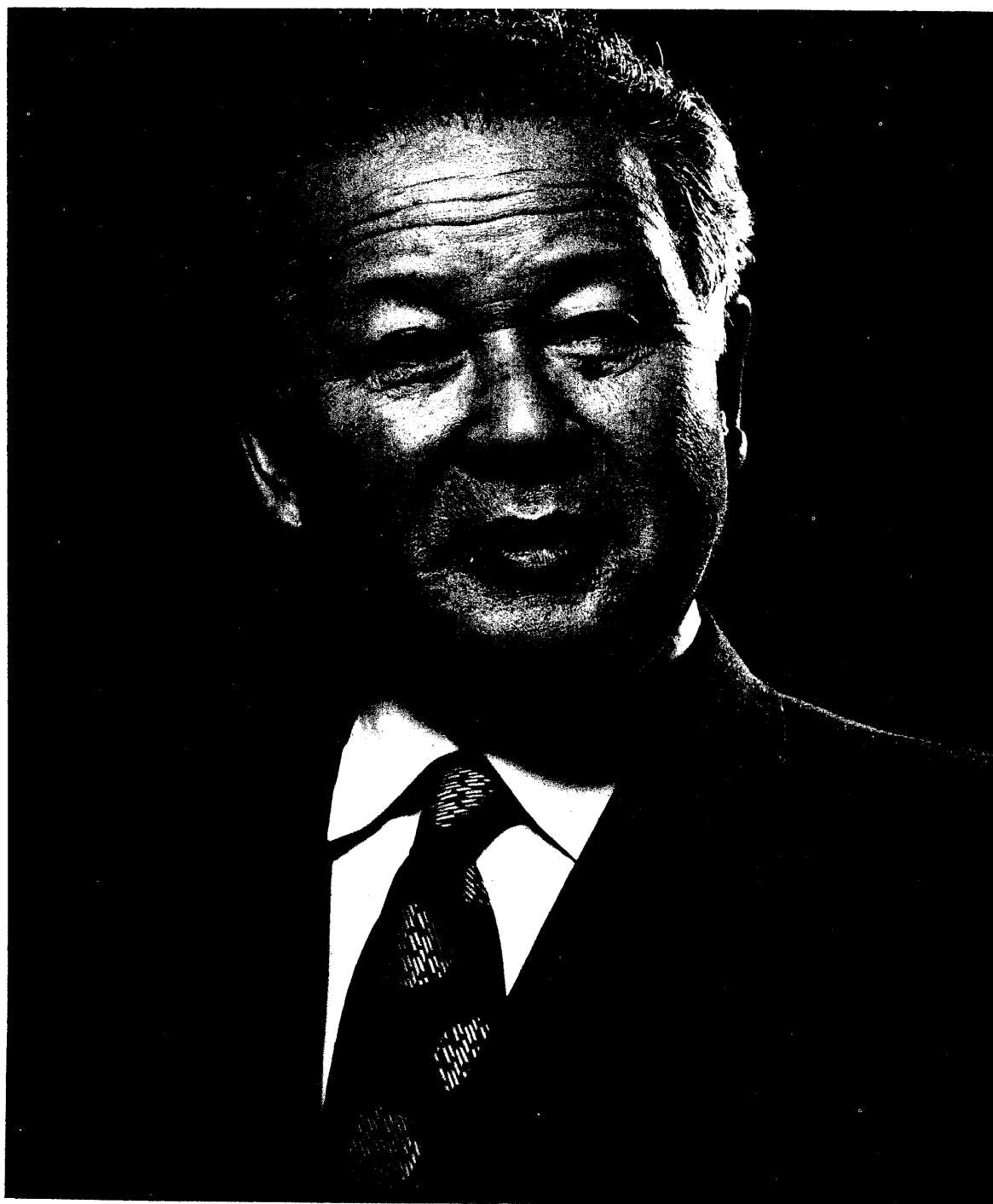


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Professor KIYOSHI ASANO

The study of smaller foraminifera in Japan which had been first launched at the end of the nineteenth century by Matajiro Yokoyama, and has been continued by Hisakatsu Yabe, Yoshiaki Ozawa, Shoshiro Hanzawa, Yanosuke Otuka and other followers in the twentieth century. The principal achievements of these pioneer scholars, however, were evaluated in their own fields of geology and paleontology.

As per attached list, Professor Kiyoshi Asano who has devoted himself to the research of the smaller foraminifera for 40 years, published some 160 papers in the past, thereby forming the foundation of the study of the smaller foraminifera and seeding the present academic progress in Japan.

A great many genera and species were discovered by Professor Asano whose monographs on foraminifera from Japan are highly appreciated in the academic field. Lately he also made outstanding contributions to biostratigraphy. Students who studied under his direct scholastic guidance are now playing leading roles in the academic fields at home and abroad; some are engaged in the development of underground resources. Furthermore, not a few of foreign scholars came to Sendai, where Tohoku University is located, to study micropaleontology under his guidance.

Professor Kiyoshi Asano was born in Nagoya, Japan on June 1, 1910 as the seventh son of Itsuzo and Yasuji Asano. His father, Itsuzo, had been a SAMURAI family serving in the TOKUGAWA clan in Owari in the pre-Meiji Era. The professor was trained under his father's strict moral discipline in his childhood. He attended elementary, junior and senior high schools in Nagoya. He then went to Tohoku Imperial University, the predecessor of the present Tohoku University, in 1932 to study under Professors H. Yabe and S. Hanzawa, and graduated in 1935. Upon completing the study of the Japanese fossil *Nodosariidae*, later he received D. Sc. in 1947. His 17 theses on the smaller foraminifera were published during his three-year post-graduate course.

Japan had already plunged into war-time setup in these years. Having found it difficult to resume his research activities, he gave up the post-graduate course and took position in the Tropical Industry Institute in Palau Island in May 1938, where he was engaged in the study of coral reefs with brilliant academic achievements. He then joined to Pacific Petroleum Co. in September 1939 and was immediately assigned to survey oil-fields in Mexico as a staff of Laguna Petroleum Co., there, holding his post in P.P.C. In Mexico, he was engaged in the research of Cretaceous and Tertiary foraminifera.

Immediately before the outbreak of World War II, he returned to Japan in July, 1941 and took position of Research Associate in the Institute of Geology and Paleontology, Tohoku Imperial University in April 1941. During the war he was assigned to undertake geological survey in New Guinea and other southeastern Asiatic countries, and his career in the field of science was interrupted. He was appointed Associate Professor of Paleontology, Tohoku Imperial University in November 1943, and made utmost efforts in teaching geology and paleontology for young students and research workers abroad. When he returned to Japan in February 1945, he found that all research activities were in a desperate condition. He then dedicated his best efforts to the evacuation of University-owned books, and specimens to the countryside of Yamagata Prefecture.

With the termination of the War in August 1945, he concentrated his energies upon

the normalization of the University. In the meantime, he was promoted to Professor of Paleontology in the Institute of Geology and Paleontology, Tohoku University in April 1951, where he has given lectures to the Institute up to present. Since 1950 he has played a key role in the scientific field by exerting himself to the academic research.

During the early stage of the Occupation, Dr. Asano published successively "Illustrated Catalogue of Japanese Tertiary Smaller Foraminifera" which should be called his life work, in the form of world's unique card-classification by compilation of Dr. Leo W. Stach under the instructions given by the late Lieutenant-Colonel Dr. Hubert G. Schenck, Chief of the Natural Resources Section of the General Headquarters of the then Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers and the former Professor of Stanford University, California. These illustrations, though not completed yet, prepared by Dr. Asano personally are now referred to by many a scholar as basic papers for the study of the foraminifera in Japan. Owing to the paper-shortage for publication in the early period of the Occupation, this Illustrated Catalogue was published privately by him. Many of his scientific papers were contributed to foreign periodicals such as *Journal of Paleontology*, *Contributions from the Cushman Foundation for Foraminiferal Research* and *Pacific Science*.

With Japan's reconstruction in progress, a large number of his theses appeared again in domestic periodicals. From the research viewpoint of foraminifera, his study covers extensively the general fields of paleontology, evolution, biostratigraphy and paleogeography. In 1956, the publication of "The Foraminifera from the Adjacent Seas of Japan, collected by the S.S. Soyo-maru, 1922-1930" was commenced in separate parts by family. First, the *Nodosariidae* was published as Part 1 and Parts 2 to 5 have already been brought out up to now.

From 1953 to 1960, he founded a liaison office for foraminiferal study in the Institute of Geology and Paleontology, Tohoku University for advancement of study of foraminifera in Japan, and published a vernacular periodical, "YUKOCHU" (Foraminifera) under his editorship, thereby giving information to researchers of foraminifera and micropaleontology as well as devoting himself to the infiltration of this specific study into the people who took an interest in it.

The vernacular magazine was discontinued due to the publication of another Japanese periodical, "Fossil", under the Professor's chief editorship by the Palaeontological Society of Japan. The "YUKOCHU" had been extensively read by subscribers because of its pocket-book size and unique contents, showing his keen interest in scientific magazines and editorial ability. The "Fossils" No. 1 to No. 24 issues (1972) have been published since the first publication in 1960.

In the educational field, Dr. Asano served Professor at the Tohoku University and visiting professor of University of Tokyo, Tokyo University of Education, Hokkaido University, Nagoya University, Kanazawa University, Kyoto University, Kyushu University, Yamagata University and Fukushima University, where he gave lectures to the students majoring in geology and paleontology.

As for his academic activities, he was appointed Councillors of the Geological Society of Japan and Palaeontological Society of Japan in the lengthy period. In 1965 he was elected to the President of the Palaeontological Society of Japan and served his term until 1969. In 1973, he was awarded as a medalist in recognition of his distinguished services to the Japanese Association of Petroleum Technologists. He has been active up to present as Member of the Science Council of Japan which he was elected in 1969, besides as Committee Members of the National Committees of Geology, Paleontology and Quaternary in the said Council. He also served Chairman in the Institute of Geology and Paleontology, Tohoku University for the past years, and elected to Councillor of the Council, Tohoku

University for the years from 1968 to 1970.

Internationally, he served Associate Editor of the "Contributions from the Cushman Foundation for Foraminiferal Research" from its first publication to the discontinuance. He also has long served Correspondent of the "Micropaleontology" since its publication.

Recently, he made frequent overseas trip to U.S.A., England, France, Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, Austria, Denmark, Sweden, Italy, Philippines and Taiwan to attend international conferences or to conduct geological surveys for the purpose of international scientific exchange. He published papers in Japanese on his study at home and abroad during his lengthy academic activities, and some of them were taken up as textbooks for the students majoring in geology and paleontology.

His retirement from service indicates not only the end of a certain epoch but also marking off the history of the Institute of Geology and Paleontology where he gave lectures to his students. His resignation too puts a period to the history of progress in micropaleontology in Japan.

In this occasion, the writer conveys his deep appreciation to the Professor's devotion and contributions to the training of research workers in his outstanding academic career as a teacher and chairman in the Institute of Geology and Paleontology, Tohoku University. The writer also hopes that Dr. Asano will enjoy a long life and continue his scientific activities in his own field.

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